



# Joe Sanfelippo



## *Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District*

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February 2011

Committee Assignments:

Parks, Energy and Environment (Vice-Chair) • Judiciary, Safety and General Services • Personnel

Dear Friends and Constituents,

**GO PACKERS!!!!!!**

I think it is probably safe to say that once the Superbowl starts next Sunday, the streets of Milwaukee County will resemble a ghost town. Most likely, the only television sets in the state not turned on will be unsold or in empty houses. It has been great to see the Green and Gold Superbowl fever sweep across our state once again. The Packers have had a great post-season so far, let's hope they got one more win in them!

As you know these are exciting times in Milwaukee County Government. We continue to work toward solutions that solve our structural deficit. We are concentrating on making major improvements to our mental health system and we are preparing to transition into a new leadership team in the executive branch.

Later this year, we will be working on a redistricting plan that will be implemented as a result of the nationwide census that is directed by our constitution to be taken every ten years.

As we go through what I expect to be the busiest year I have spent on the board thus far, I look forward to your continued comments, questions and suggestions on making Milwaukee County a more affordable and better place to work and live in.



**GO PACKERS!!!!!!**

### Primary Election

February 15<sup>th</sup> is Primary Election day here in Milwaukee County and across the state. If you are a new resident of District 17 and are unsure of where to vote, or if you would like to receive an absentee ballot, you can call the number for your municipality for further information.

Greenfield City Clerk: (414) 329-5219  
West Allis City Clerk: (414) 302-8200  
Greendale Village Clerk: (414) 423-2100

### Free Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Before the big game on Sunday, visit with your favorite critters at the Zoo!

**Saturday, February 5, 2011**

9:00am- 4:00pm

10001 West Blue Mound Road  
Milwaukee, 53226

### Mental Health Reform

Work on making substantial improvements and a change to Milwaukee County's Mental Health Program is continuing. The Citizen Advisory Board, (CAB) has held dozens of meetings over the past several months working on recommendations for improving the way in which mental healthcare is provided in our community. Focusing on patient safety, community linkages and patient centered care, CAB has already forwarded recommendations to the County, some of which were already included in the 2011 budget.

The CAB will continue to meet nearly weekly from now until the end of summer when the full report and final recommendations are due to be presented. This committee is made up of county staff, private providers, community activists and clients. This broad range of members is providing a great deal of experience and insight to the meetings and I appreciate working with each and every one of them.

The committee to study the construction of a new Behavioral Health Facility that was formed earlier this year has gotten off to good start. Work has already begun on looking at ways to downsize our current mental health hospital by transitioning clients into smaller facilities in the community that can provide a better healing environment. We are also looking at ways of expanding the community support services that are badly needed to provide care for patients once they are released from the hospital. It is the lack of a strong community network that is causing us to spend more than 56% of our budget on emergency care which exceeds the nationwide average by almost 20%.

Once we have determined exactly what role Milwaukee County will play in the delivery of mental healthcare in the future, we will be able to focus our attention on what type of facility we will need and where it should be located.

## O'Donnell Park Update

The future of the parking structure at O'Donnell Park was hotly debated late last year during budget deliberations and more recently when Michael Cudahy suggested that it should be torn down and perhaps be replaced with a new location for the Milwaukee Public Museum.

There is little debate that a parking garage and the adjacent transit center across E. Michigan Street are not exactly the best use of this prime lakefront land. But what to do on these two sites is not as easy to agree on.

Replacing one or both of these structures is going to require navigating through a very slow and complex process. Many different parties will be involved with Milwaukee County in the decision making. The City of Milwaukee, the local museums, surrounding businesses, developers and citizen groups will all have a say in shaping the future use of this uniquely positioned real estate.

Getting all of this accomplished is going to take years as you can well imagine. Add the continued economic recession on top of that and the fact that development has ground to a halt and the prospects of rejuvenating these sites could easily be ten to fifteen years away. That is why I am supporting repairing the parking garage and getting back open for business as soon as possible.

The Parks Department earns about \$100,000 per month in parking revenue from O'Donnell Park. At this rate, in just five years the money we spend on repairs will be paid back. If it takes another five to ten years beyond that to redevelop the site, we will net another five to ten million in revenue for our Parks.

There are a few conditions of my support, however. First, the engineers must be able to determine that the structure will be completely safe for the public to use upon completion of these repairs. Second, once these repairs are finished the structure should be usable for another twenty years before major repairs are needed again. As long as these two hurdles can be met, repairing the structure makes the most sense based on the likely length of time it will take for redevelopment.



## Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Nominations

The Milwaukee County Department on Aging is accepting nominations for the Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Established in 1997 the Hall of Fame honors five outstanding seniors in Milwaukee County who have served the community as volunteers and as advocates on behalf the elderly.

Nominees must show distinguished volunteer service in any one or combination of the following categories:

- voluntary service of an educational, community or humanitarian nature
- exceptional contributions as a volunteer in efforts to improve the lives of people regardless of race, creed or national origin
- voluntary service in advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin senior citizens

A ceremony and celebration is scheduled for May 2011.

Click [here](#) for the nomination form.

Nominations due February 14, 2011.

